

What is claimed is:

1. A universal remote control, comprising:

5 a plurality keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings based on functionality, wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control.

2. The universal remote control of claim 1 wherein the plurality of groupings are selected from the group consisting of a grouping for a power button, a
10 grouping for each different appliance, a grouping for support functions for the appliances, a grouping for navigation keys, a grouping for volume/channel keys a grouping for number keys and a grouping for device functions..

3. The universal remote control of claim 1 wherein keypad spacing
15 between keypads within each grouping is smaller than keypad spacing between each of the plurality of groupings.

4. The universal remote control of claim 1 wherein keypads in adjacent groupings have different shapes.

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5. The universal remote control of claim 1 wherein keypads in adjacent groupings have different sizes.

6. A universal remote control system, comprising:

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at least one remotely controllable appliance; and
a universal remote control, wherein the universal remote control includes a plurality keypads arranged in a plurality of groupings based on functionality, wherein the shape and location of the keypads in each grouping enable a user to operate the universal remote control.

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7. The universal remote control system of claim 6 wherein the plurality of groupings are selected from the group consisting of a grouping for a power button, a grouping for each different appliance, a grouping for support functions for the

appliances, a grouping for navigation keys, a grouping for volume/channel keys a grouping for number keys and a grouping for device functions..

8. The universal remote control system of claim 6 wherein keypad spacing
5 between keypads within each grouping is smaller than keypad spacing between each of the plurality of groupings.

9. The universal remote control system of claim 6 wherein keypads in
adjacent groupings have different shapes.

10. The universal remote control system of claim 6 wherein keypads in
adjacent groupings have different sizes.

11. The universal remote control system of claim 6 wherein the at least one
15 remotely controllable appliance is selected from the group consisting of a television receiver, a video cassette recorder (VCRs), a digital video disk player (DVDs), a satellite receiver, a compact disk player, and an audio system.